

VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

MARCH 2011

FOUR DOLLARS



Annual Photography Contest Showcase

Ours is a fast moving and a fast changing world. Information saturation, rapidly evolving technology, and a global marketplace will likely ensure that Americans continue to operate in "overdrive." The impacts of this pace of life upon the human spirit have been measured and reported in many ways; not surprisingly, most of them are negative.

Perhaps that is why stories about people choosing a simpler way of life, choosing to get off the grid, choosing to walk with abandon into the woods and along the river's edge to revel in nature's offerings, resonate so deeply in me. It would seem that my inner spirit instinctively craves this connection, too.

What I feel when immersed in the photographs submitted to this contest by people from one corner of the state to the other instantly transports me to those tranquil moments outdoors. And often, while studying a particularly noteworthy photograph, words fail me. That is not necessarily a bad thing. We could use a little more quiet in this world, I believe.

Although lacking precise words to describe the artistry behind an image, I am clearly able to describe how it makes me feel inside. Consistently, I am filled with a sense of great optimism. The vision and the talents of many amateur photographers—neighbors across Virginia—capturing the essence of wild animals and the very miracles of nature can't help but lift my spirits. Through their efforts I am brought face to face with the raw beauty of our commonwealth and the surprises that await everyone who ventures into its woods and meadows.

We are so very fortunate that such wild places remain here, along an eastern corridor that has become increasingly popular for people taking up residence. We are more than lucky that large expanses as well as small pockets of habitat still exist to support an incredible array of wildlife—free for us to enjoy. And I am very fortunate to be among a small staff of judges who see the breadth of images entered in this contest. It is a humbling experience for me, each and every year.

So, I offer my congratulations and deep gratitude to all who ventured out to wild places, who spent hours in the quiet, who took time to perfect their skills, and who shared with us what they encountered through their camera lens.

Sally Mills

Sally Mills, Editor

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To manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; To provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia; To promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing; To provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.

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Virginia Wildlife (ISSN 0042 6792) is published monthly by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Send all subscription orders and address changes to Virginia Wildlife, P. O. Box 7477, Red Oak, Iowa 51591-0477. Address all other communications concerning this publication to Virginia Wildlife, P. O. Box 11104, 4010 West Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23230-1104. Subscription rates are \$12.95 for one year, \$23.95 for two years; \$4.00 per each back issue, subject to availability. Out-of-country rate is \$24.95 for one year and must be paid in U.S. funds. No refunds for amounts less than \$5.00. To subscribe, call toll-free (800) 710-9369. POSTMASTER: Please send all address changes to Virginia Wildlife, P.O. Box 7477, Red Oak, Iowa 51591-0477. Postage for periodicals paid at Richmond, Virginia and additional entry offices.

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**FRONT COVER:
GRAND PRIZE WINNER**

Paul A. Block
Williamsburg

Congratulations go to Paul A. Block of Williamsburg for winning the coveted **GRAND PRIZE** in this year's contest! Paul reported that during a snow flurry this delightful male bluebird perched on a shepherd's hook on his back deck, fluffing up to ward off a cold January morning. Adorable, beautiful, and peaceful. Who says you have to travel far to get a great image?

Nikon D70 digital SLR camera, 300mm f/4.0 lens, ISO 200, 1/350th, f/4.0.



**BACK COVER:
KIDS' GRAND PRIZE WINNER**

Darren Shank
Dayton

Darren Shank, age 11, of Dayton, is this year's winner of the Kids' Grand Prize for his surprising image of an adult screech owl bringing a night crawler to its chick. Upon hearing about a nest in a friend's wood duck box, Darren and his dad and brothers went to the site with Canon digital cameras, a Phototrap trigger system, a Pocket Wizard, and two Canon Speedlite 580 EX II flashes. Darren reports that he clamped his camera to a ladder to get it level with the action and this was the result. **TOTALLY AWESOME!**

Canon 1D Mark IV digital SLR camera, Canon EF 17-40mm f/4.0L lens, ISO 1600, 1/125th, f/20.0, two Canon Speedlite 580 EX II flashes fired by a Pocket Wizard and Phototrap system.

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ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST SHOWCASE

by Lynda Richardson

Drama, creativity, perfect composition, gorgeous light, solitude, high-tech action, unusual angles, color, and snow! It was all there in the images we saw while judging this year's annual photography competition.

In all, we received 1,690 photographs and nearly 100% of the submissions had been shot in a digital format. *A Bug's Life* was the category with the most entries, at 308. Next was *Scenic Seasons* with 291, *Birds of a Feather*, 289; *Fantastic Flowers*, 219; *Marvelous Mammals*, 206; *Cold & Clammy*, 165; and *Sporting Life* with 90. *Kids & Cameras* ages 6-12 had 62 entries, and *Kids & Cameras* ages 13-18 had 57.

As we reviewed the photographs, we noticed a few differences in submissions from previous years. First, there were a lot more photographs that had been taken in the snow: birds perched in the snow, animals walking around in the snow, snowy landscapes, and frosty vegetation. Obviously, this past year's snowy weather presented a lot of fantastic opportunities for photographers. We loved it!

Another thing we noticed were a lot of submissions that were downright funny. Though we didn't select many, it planted the idea of creating a humor category at some point in the future. We did receive a specific category request from Addison Bryant, age 12, who won an honorable mention in *Kids & Cameras* 6-12 with his orange mushrooms. He would love to see a fungus category. His mother says he's crazy about mushrooms and fungus. We'll see what we can do, Addison.

As you can imagine, when the judges got right down to picking "the best" six in each



© Richard Cox

category, it was just plain hard. To give you an idea of what we were up against... out of the 289 entries in *Birds of a Feather*, our first-round cuts still left us with 61 favorites. There could be only 6.

Of course this problem led us into a lot of "discussions." Some judges favored a more journalistic approach, using the "how hard is it to get this image" or "have I already seen this image a million times before" sensibility. Others concentrated more on the artistic and design value of the image and chose from that perspective. So, how did we finally get down to the final six?

We looked for something unusual that resonated within all of us, such as Wendy Nelson's dramatic first-place winner in *Scenic Seasons* and Jim Kirby's creative first-place winner in *Cold & Clammy Critters*. We looked for perfectly composed moments of time, like Douglas Graham's first place in *The Sporting Life*, Jim Kirby's first place in *Marvelous Mammals*, and Jim Kacsmarik's

first place in *Birds of a Feather*. Startling color and hard to capture subject matter won Christopher Wirth his first place in *A Bug's Life*. Elegant design captured Ben Gahagen's first place in *Fantastic Flowers*.

And how about those kids in *Kids & Cameras*? The Shank brothers blew us away with their high-tech, stop-action images of birds and bats. Did you see Darren Shank's insane back cover? That's a night crawler swinging from that screech owl's mouth.

Drama, creativity, perfect composition, gorgeous light, solitude, high-tech action, unusual angles, color, and snow. That is what this year's competition was all about. Everyone did a fantastic job!

Congratulations and HAPPY SHOOTING! We look forward to seeing your best work again next year.

SPECIAL NOTE: I would be remiss in not mentioning how thankful the staff of *Virginia Wildlife* and I are for the loyal and continued support of Ted Bullard, president and owner of Richmond Camera and Richmond Professional Lab. Ted has always been a dedicated contest sponsor for us, and has once again donated fabulous prizes for all of our winners! We are very thankful for his generosity. Please always think about Richmond Camera and Richmond Professional Lab for your photographic needs. — Lynda Richardson

**Please note changes on
"How to Enter" the 2011
Annual Photography Contest.**

[http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/events/
photo-contest.pdf](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/events/photo-contest.pdf)

Scenic Seasons



FIRST PLACE

Wendy Nelson
Williamsburg

Dramatically silhouetted against the sky, a lone cypress cradling an osprey nest stands strong against the James River near the Jamestown-Scotland Ferry. Stunning!

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Canon EF-S 10-22mm f/3.5-4.5 USM lens, ISO 160, 1/250th, f/16.0.

"Solitary trees, if they grow at all, grow strong."

Winston Churchill



SECOND PLACE

Rachel Echols
Harrisonburg

This gorgeous winter wonderland was photographed after a snowstorm at Wildwood Park in Bridgewater.

Nikon D80 digital SLR camera, Nikkor AF-S DX 18-200mm f3.5-4.5 lens, ISO 200, 1/1000th, f/11.0.



THIRD PLACE

Jim Kirby
Reston

As photographed from Jim's kayak, double-crested cormorants pose at the mouth of Bull Run in Fairfax County during a lovely foggy spring morning.

Canon EOS 1D Mark IV digital SLR camera, 300mm lens, ISO 1600, 1/1000th, f/5.6.



HONORABLE MENTION

Jim Kirby
Reston

Water rages through Difficult Run in Fairfax County's Great Falls Park after heavy spring rains.

Canon EOS SD Mark II digital SLR camera, 16mm lens, ISO 100, 8 seconds, f/11.0 with a neutral density filter.



HONORABLE MENTION

Paul A. Block
Williamsburg

Fall dressed cypress trees found in the Chickahominy Wildlife Management Area.

Nikon D70 digital SLR camera, 300mm lens, ISO not recorded, 1/750th, f/4.0.



HONORABLE MENTION

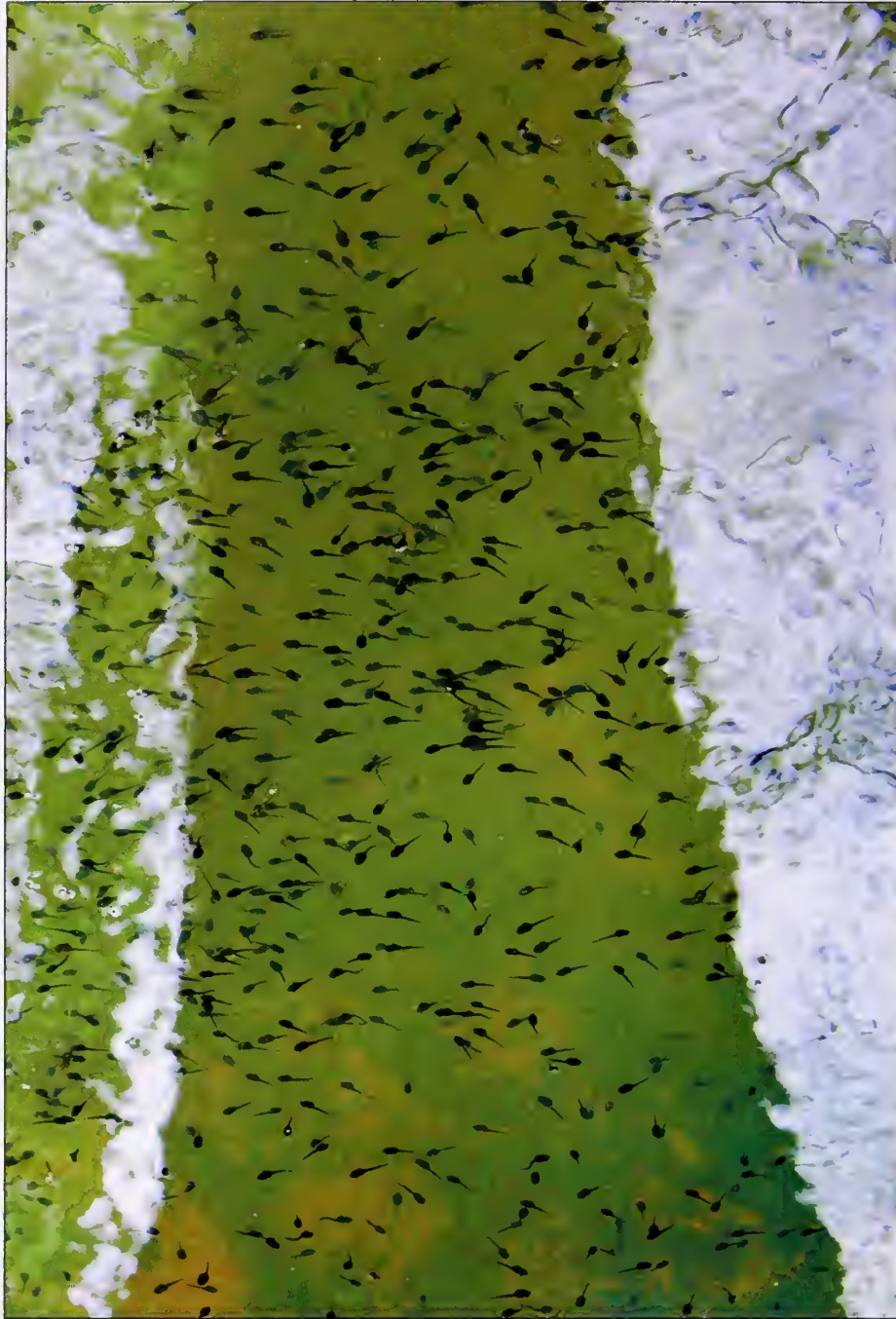
Cindy Simmons
Dublin

Strong winds carved gravity-defying snow sculptures with tall grass on Whitetop Mountain in Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area. Brrrrrr!

Nikon Coolpix 3100 compact digital camera, ISO 100, 1/800th, f/5.6.

"Each moment of the year has its own beauty."
Ralph Waldo Emerson

Cold and Clammy Critters



FIRST PLACE

Jim Kirby
Reston

One warm spring afternoon Jim discovered tiny tadpoles swimming in the shadow of a tall sycamore tree in a vernal pool along the Cross County Trail in Fairfax. What a fabulous shot!

Canon EOS 50D digital SLR camera, 100mm macro lens, ISO 1600, 1/40th, f/8.0.



SECOND PLACE

Liam McGranaghan
Berryville

Quick and attentive shooting captures a black rat snake emerging from its egg.

Nikon D300s digital SLR camera, Sigma 17-70mm lens, ISO 200, 1/250th, f/5.0 with flash.



HONORABLE MENTION

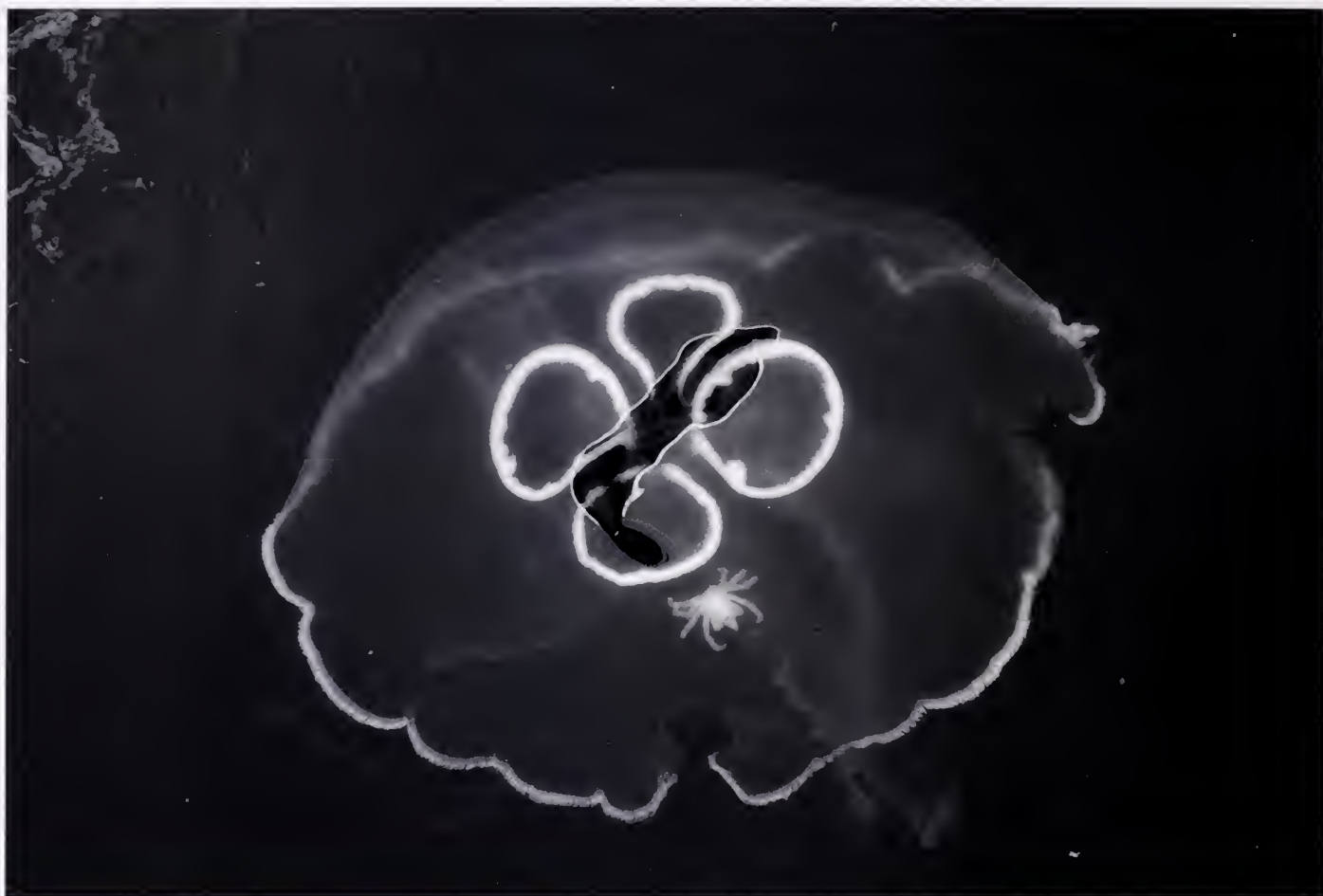
Jim Sullivan
Charlottesville

An American green tree frog photographed in Albemarle County.

Nikon D70 digital SLR camera, 105mm macro lens, ISO 200, 1/60th, f/45, with close-up flash.

*"Every individual matters.
Every individual has a role to
play. Every individual makes
a difference."*

Jane Goodall



THIRD PLACE

Dudley Olcott

Chesapeake

One hot July day a moon jellyfish and a hitch-hiking crab swim below a pier on the South Branch of the Elizabeth River in Portsmouth. Cool!

Canon EOS Digital Rebel XTi SLR camera, Canon EF 70 – 300mm f/4-5.6 IS lens, ISO 400, 1/80th, f/5.6.



HONORABLE MENTION

Randy Streufert

Mason Neck

A broadhead skink photographed from a blind near Jacobs Creek in Mason Neck.

Nikon D700 digital SLR camera, Nikkor 200-400mm, ISO 400, 1/20th, f/7.1, on tripod.

"Any glimpse into the life of an animal quickens our own and makes it so much larger and better in every way."

John Muir



HONORABLE MENTION

Tom Badger
Melfa

A small hermit crab appears alone in its relationship to the surrounding peat bank on one of Virginia's barrier islands.

Sony DSC-HX1 digital SLR camera,
ISO 125, 1/1000th, f/4.0.



HONORABLE MENTION

Douglas Graham
Bluemont

An American toad trills for a mate.

Nikon D3 digital SLR camera, Nikkor
AF-S 200-400mm f/4.0 lens, with a
1.4X teleconverter, ISO 400, 1/640th,
f/6.7.

The Sporting Life



FIRST PLACE

Douglas Graham
Bluemont

A light snow falls as a hunter and his trusty Weimaraner hunt for ruffed grouse and woodcock at the G. R. Thompson Wildlife Management Area in northwestern Fauquier County. Awesome!

Nikon D3 digital SLR camera, Nikkor 24-70mm f2.8 lens, ISO 1600, 1/1000th, f/5.0.

*"Dogs are not our
whole life, but they
make our lives whole."*

Roger Caras



SECOND PLACE

David Lyster
Charlottesville

An early morning October fog on the Rivanna River near Charlottesville made a beautiful and peaceful backdrop for this fisherman and photographer.

Nikon D90 digital SLR camera, Nikkor 105mm lens, ISO 500, 1/160th, f/2.8 on tripod.



THIRD PLACE

David Boyd
Falmouth

A budding wildlife photographer attempts to photograph a camera-shy fawn at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park.

Canon EOS 1DS Mark III digital SLR camera, Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 IS USM lens, ISO 640, 1/400th, f/5.6.



HONORABLE MENTION

Dudley Olcott
Chesapeake

The morning after an evening rain on a scout campout at the Fullhardt Knob Shelter along the Appalachian Trail near Troutville.

Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT SLR camera, Canon EF-S 17-85mm f/4-5.6 IS lens, ISO 400, 1/50th, f/4.5.



HONORABLE MENTION

Wendy Nelson
Williamsburg

A cool morning of fishing on the James River along the Colonial Parkway.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Canon EF-S 10-22mm f/3.5-4.5 USM autofocus lens, ISO 400, 1/500th, f/10.0, flash fired.



HONORABLE MENTION

Lisa Stokes
Woodstock

An exciting summer day of tube skiing on Lake Louisa in Louisa County.

Canon EOS 50D digital SLR camera, Canon 85mm lens, ISO 125, 1/1000th, f/5.6.

Marvelous Mammals



FIRST PLACE

Jim Kirby
Reston

The first big snowstorm of 2010 offered a moment of solitude for these three does as they made their way along the edge of the woods in Algonquian Park in Loudoun County. So peaceful.

Canon EOS 50D digital SLR camera, 300mm lens, ISO 400, 1/500th, f/4.0.

*"There is something infinitely healing
in the repeated refrains of nature—the
assurance that dawn comes after night,
and spring after the winter."*

Rachel Carson



SECOND PLACE

Pat Temples
Stanardsville

A buck in velvet looks up while feeding at Big Meadows in Shenandoah National Park.

Nikon D90 digital camera, Nikon 18-105mm lens, ISO 200, 1/100th, f/10.0.



HONORABLE MENTION

Wendy Nelson
Williamsburg

A curious gray squirrel checks out an old film camera in the path of his trip to the bird feeder.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 IS USM lens, ISO 500, 1/500th, f/5.0.



THIRD PLACE

Aaron Browning
Springfield

Lying down near a pond, Aaron was able to capture a cold but thirsty gray squirrel at Hidden Pond Nature Center in Springfield.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Canon 400mm f/5.6 lens, no ISO or shutter recorded, f/5.6.



HONORABLE MENTION

Denise Martin
Glen Allen

A fawn watches from the hill near the Big Meadows Byrd Visitor Center in Shenandoah National Park.

Canon EOS 20D digital SLR camera, Canon 70-200mm f/4.0L IS lens, ISO 800, 1/8000th, f/2.8.



HONORABLE MENTION

David Boyd
Falmouth

A coyote pauses along the road in Shenandoah National Park.

Canon EOS 1DS Mark III digital SLR camera, Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 IS USM lens, ISO 1000, 1/500th, f/5.6.

A Bug's Life



FIRST PLACE

"Some of nature's most exquisite handiwork is on a miniature scale, as anyone knows who has applied a magnifying glass to a snowflake."

Rachel Carson

Christopher Wirth

Powhatan

A gorgeous metallic green bee feeding on a flower caught the eye of frequent contest winner Chris Wirth and he was able to capture its stunning beauty in this one-to-one macro shot. BEE-U-TEE-FULL!

Canon EOS 7D digital SLR camera, Canon MP-E 65mm f/2.8 1-5x Macro Photo lens, ISO 100, 1/250th, f/11.0, Canon Speedlite 580EX flash with custom-made softbox.



SECOND PLACE

Jim Sullivan
Charlottesville

An adorable Sachem Skipper poses for a spunky close-up portrait.

Nikon D200 digital SLR camera, 105mm f/2.8 macro lens, ISO 640, 1/1600, f/22.0, close-up flash.



THIRD PLACE

Kevin Shank
Dayton

A Pale Beauty flutters around a light bulb in this wonderful photo illustration of a moth being drawn to light. Kevin captured this cool shot using a Phototrap that is triggered when insects cross a beam of light.

Canon EOS 1D Mark IV digital SLR camera, Canon 17-40mm lens, ISO 200, 1/250th, f/22, plus two Canon Speedlite 580EX II flashes, Pocket Wizard and Phototrap system.



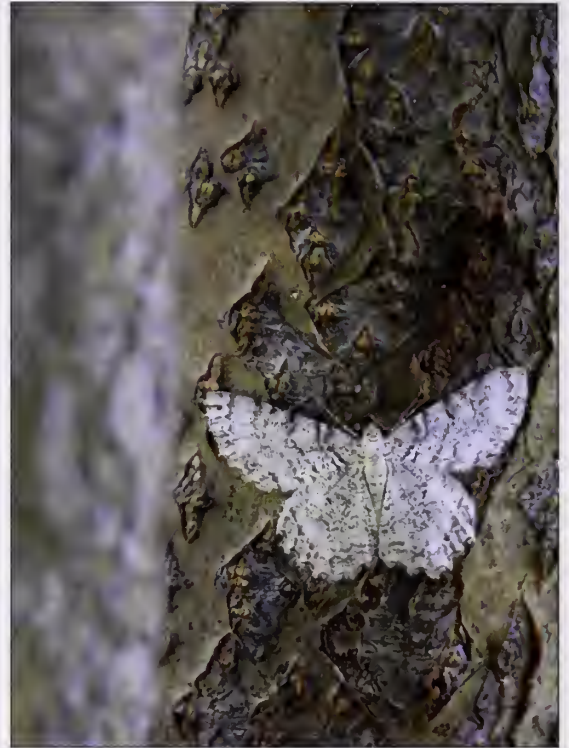
HONORABLE MENTION

Rachel Echols

Harrisonburg

A green stink bug pauses on a picnic table at Kiptopeke State Park on the Eastern Shore.

Nikon D80 digital SLR camera, Nikkor 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6 lens, ISO 500, 1/60th, f/13.0 with a 500D close-up lens.



HONORABLE MENTION

Terry Johnston

Williamsburg

A Tulip-tree Beauty's use of camouflage didn't get past the photographer of this insightful image.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Sigma 18-200mm f/3.5-6.3 lens, ISO 200, 1/15th, f/6.3.



HONORABLE MENTION

Joseph Piotrowski

Williamsburg

A bristly wolf spider holds its meal in Charlie E. Brown Park. Can you tell which eye is watching the photographer?

Canon EOS 1D Mark III digital SLR camera, Canon EF 100mm f/2.8L IS USM macro lens, ISO 200, 1/30th, f/10.0 on a tripod, in a swamp, hip boots required.

Birds of a Feather



FIRST PLACE

Jim Kacsmarik
Bentonville

A goldfinch in winter plumage is caught mid-flight in this dramatic image taken in Warren County. Wow!

Canon EOS 50D digital SLR camera, ISO 1000, 1/2000th, f/6.3.



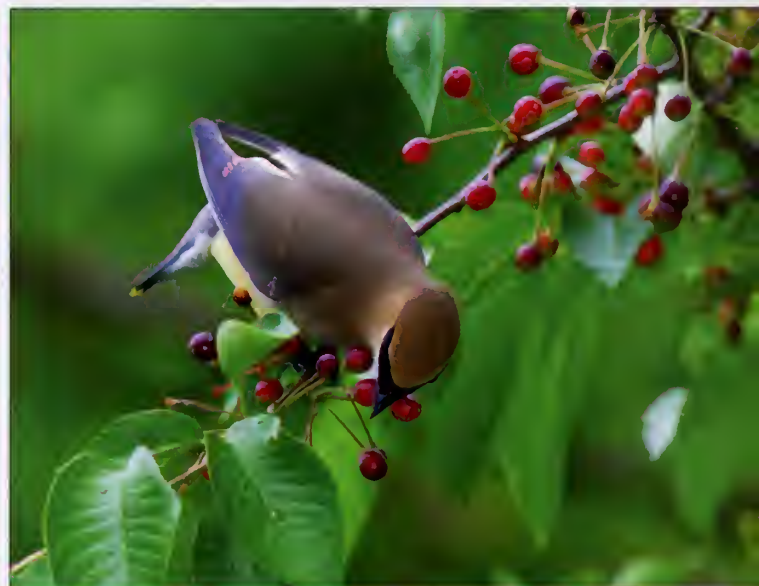
SECOND PLACE

Andy Maneno

Delaplane

A black vulture peering out from a hayloft in Delaplane makes an usually beautiful subject in this black and white image.

Canon EOS 50D digital SLR camera,
400mm lens, ISO 1600, 1/250th, f/5.6.





THIRD PLACE

Wendy Nelson
Williamsburg

A hungry snowy egret chases minnows at
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge.

Canon EOS 7D digital SLR camera, Canon EF
100-400mm f/4.5-5.6 IS USM lens, ISO 640,
1/1250th, f/5.6.



HONORABLE MENTION

Douglas Graham
Bluemont

A velvety cedar waxwing feeds on cherries.

Nikon D3 digital SLR camera, Nikon 500mm
f/4.0 lens with a 1.7X teleconverter, ISO 640,
1/500th, f/6.7.

*"Be like the bird, who halting in his flight
on limb too slight, feels it give way beneath
him, yet sings knowing he hath wings."*

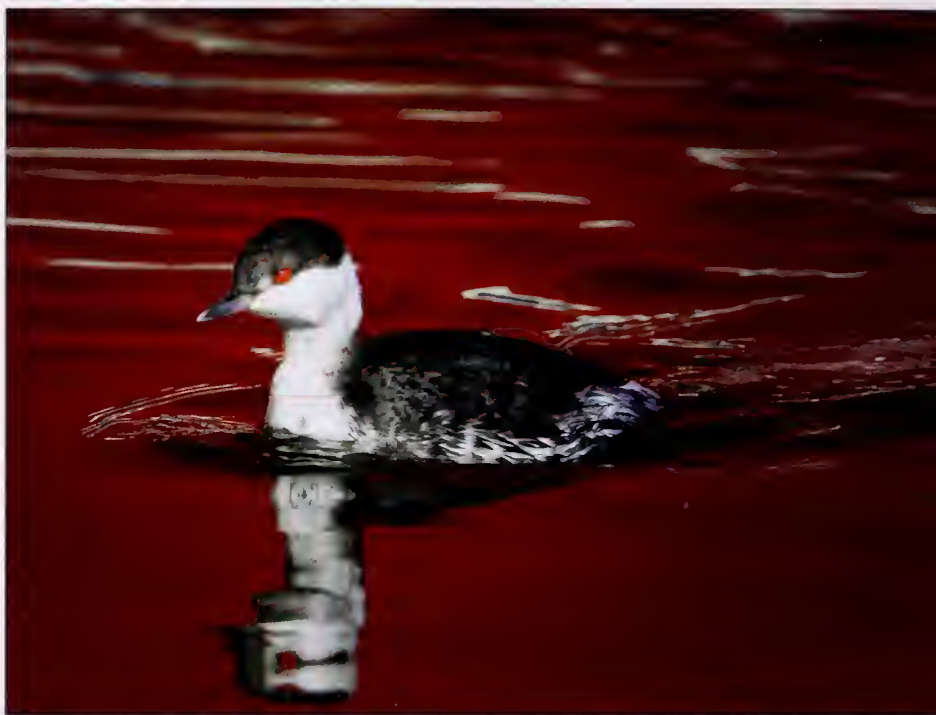
Victor Hugo

HONORABLE MENTION

Thomas Hodge
Hampton

A horned grebe in winter plumage swims through water reflecting a brilliant red background.

Canon EOS 50D digital SLR camera, 700mm lens range, ISO 200, 1/1000th, f/8.0.



HONORABLE MENTION

Carla Vanderbilt
Jacksonville, FL

A mourning dove resting at the Blandy Experimental Farm in Boyce.

Canon EOS Digital Rebel XT SLR camera,
Canon EF 100-400mm f/4.5-5.6L IS USM lens,
Canon 1.4X teleconverter, ISO 400, 1/250th, f/8.0.



Fantastic Plants



FIRST PLACE

Ben Gahagen
Albany, OH

Elegant and gently lit, this bloodroot flower is one of many plants to grace the spring landscape. This one was found in Harrisonburg. Captivating!

Canon EOS Digital Rebel Xti SLR camera, 100mm macro lens, ISO 100, 1/40th, f/6.3.

"I found I could say things with color and shapes that I couldn't say any other way—things I had no words for."

Georgia O'Keeffe

SECOND PLACE

Cindy Simmons
Dublin

One morning a spectacular frost covered everything, including this mountain laurel in Jefferson National Forest in Bland County.

Nikon COOLPIX 3100 compact digital camera, ISO 100, 1/100th, f/2.8.

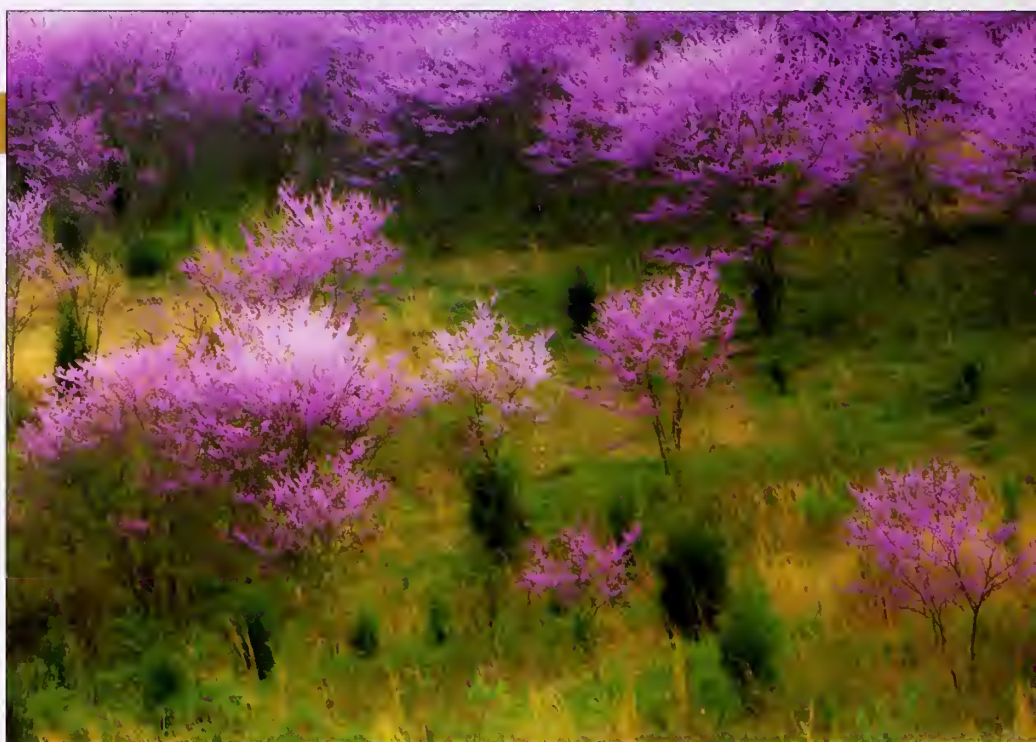


THIRD PLACE

David Everette
Richmond

Red buds light up the landscape in this power line right-of-way at Hull Street and Route 288 near Richmond.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera,
Canon EF 70-200mm f/2.8L IS USM lens,
ISO 200, 1/5th, f/22.0.



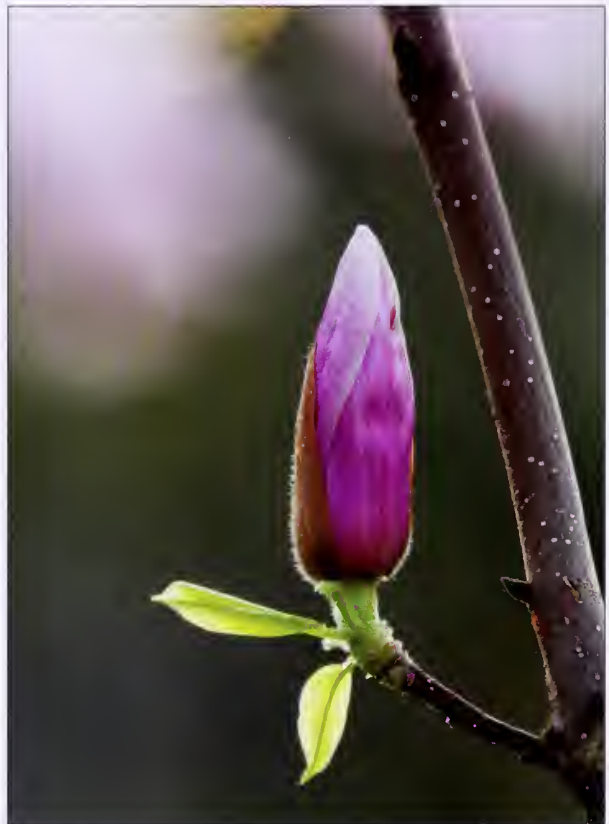


HONORABLE MENTION

Richard Cox
Bumpass

Tendrils of a vine form a natural necklace in this elegant photograph.

Canon EOS Digital Rebel T1i SLR camera, Canon EF 100mm f/2.8 macro USM, ISO 800, 1/200th, f/13.0, Canon Speedlite 580 EX flash fired.



HONORABLE MENTION

David Everette
Richmond

A tulip magnolia bud about to bloom signifies new life in Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Canon EF 70-200mm f/2.8 IS USM lens, ISO 200, 1/30th, f/5.6 and a 500D close-up lens.



HONORABLE MENTION

David Lyster
Charlottesville

These April flowering trillium were found along the Staunton River in Shenandoah National Park in Madison County.

Nikon D40 digital SLR camera, Nikon 105mm f/2.8 macro lens, ISO 200, 1/320th, f/4.0 on tripod.

Kids & Cameras 6-12



FIRST PLACE

Darren Shank, age 11
Dayton

Walking in the woods one day, Darren and his brothers located a chickadee nest in a snag. To photograph the comings and goings of the adults feeding their young, the boys set up a Phototrap trigger and used a Pocket Wizard to fire the flashes. One flash was placed in the background to illuminate the bird's black heads and the other stopped the action in the foreground. Way to go, Darren!

Canon EOS 1D Mark IV digital SLR camera, Canon 70-200mm lens, ISO 1000, 1/320th, f/16.0, plus two Canon Speedlite 580EX II flashes, Pocket Wizard and Phototrap system.



SECOND PLACE

Allen Shank, age 8
Dayton

A beautiful snowfall inspired a photo session from a window in the house overlooking the backyard bird feeders. A dark-eyed junco made it all worthwhile.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Canon 400mm lens, ISO 640, 1/320th, f/6.3.



THIRD PLACE

Meagan Knott, age 10
Gloucester

Unusual subject matter can sometimes make a winner as this house fly on a cracker, "Dining at the Ritz," did for Meagan.

Olympus FE-47 compact digital camera, ISO 100, 1/100th, f/3.5.



HONORABLE MENTION

Hailey Ladd, age 11
Richmond

After seeing a frog swimming below the surface, Hailey patiently waited for the frog to appear again... which it did in this winning shot taken at a pond in Mine Run.

Canon EOS Digital Rebel XSi SLR camera, 55-200mm lens, ISO 200, 1/100th, f/6.3.



HONORABLE MENTION

Alison Widzinski, age 8
Round Hill

A clever addition of fill flash makes this an even more interesting and beautiful backyard sunset.

Nikon D40 digital SLR camera, Nikkor 18-55mm f/3.5-5.6 lens, ISO 1600, 1/60th, f/4.5 with flash fired.



HONORABLE MENTION

Addison Bryant, age 12
Pilot

Beautiful orange mushrooms photographed at Hungry Mother State Park were a winner for Addison who asked if we could some day add a fungus category. We'll see what we can do, Addison!

Kodak Easyshare C1013 compact digital camera, ISO 64, 1/80th, f/2.7.

Kids & Cameras 13-18



FIRST PLACE

Marlin Shank, age 15
Dayton

Drawn by the knowledge of bats in the eaves of a friend's house, Marlin, his father, and brothers headed out for a photo session. Using a Phototrap trigger system everyone took turns shooting the bats as they flew toward the river. Marlin reports that he particularly liked this image of a little brown bat returning to the roost. Killer shot!

Canon EOS 1D Mark IV digital SLR camera, Canon EF 17-40mm f/4.0L lens, ISO 400, 1/250th, f/18.0, three Canon Speedlite 580 EX II flashes and one Sigma EF-530 DG Superflash, Phototrap and Pocket Wizard system.

SECOND PLACE

Shaphan Shank, age 13
Dayton

Shaphan discovered an orchard oriole nest while in a blind photographing kingfishers. Busy guy! After repositioning the blind, he was able to capture this wonderful image of a female oriole on her nest with a hungry chick.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Canon 70-200mm lens with Canon 1.4X teleconverter, ISO 640, 1/125th, f/9.0.

"Young people, I want to beg of you always keep your eyes open to what Mother Nature has to teach you. By so doing you will learn many valuable things every day of your life."

George Washington Carver





THIRD PLACE

Dillon Rapalee, age 17

Goochland

An impressive male Hercules beetle, also known as a unicorn beetle, climbs a tree for this winning photograph.

Canon EOS 50D digital SLR camera, ISO 1000, 1/500th, f/8.0.



HONORABLE MENTION

Dillon Rapalee, age 17

Goochland

A fence lizard peers down for a better look at the photographer.

Nikon Coolpix P4 compact digital camera, ISO 50, 1/125th, f/4.3.

HONORABLE MENTION

Harrison Mire, age 17
Richmond

A pileated woodpecker captured while feeding on a snowy day at the Pony Pasture Park along the James River in Richmond.

Nikon D60 digital camera, Nikkor 55-200mm lens, ISO 200, 1/250th, f/5.6.

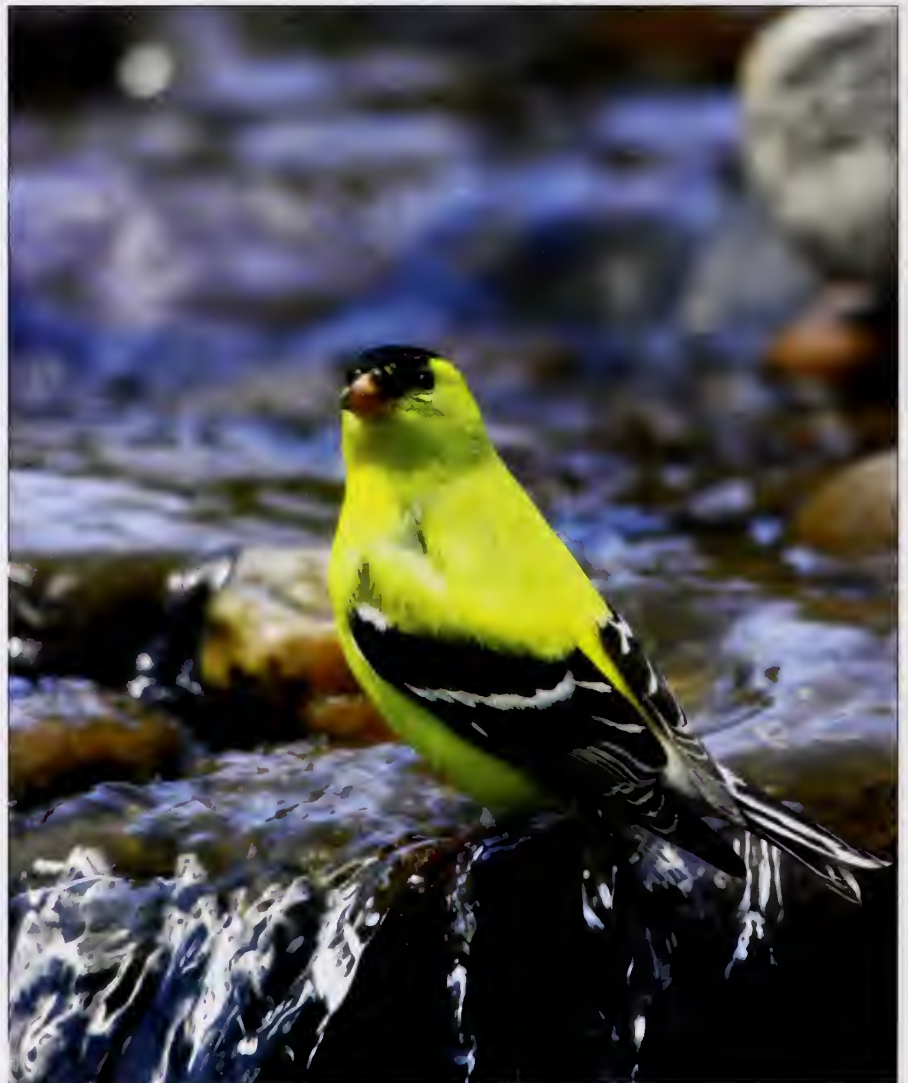


HONORABLE MENTION

Marlin Shank, age 15
Dayton

Photographed from a photo blind near Marlin's house, a male American goldfinch poses before getting a drink of water in the backyard water garden.

Canon EOS 40D digital SLR camera, Canon 400mm lens with Canon 2.0X teleconverter, ISO 800, 1/800th, f/6.3, flash fired.



2011 Virginia Wildlife Photography Contest

It's time to enter your best photographs and let Virginia Wildlife magazine showcase your images for thousands to enjoy. Special prizes will be donated by Richmond Camera and *Virginia Wildlife* to contest winners. Two very talented winners will have their photographs featured on the cover (adult) and back cover (kid) as grand prizes. Winning entries also will be posted on our website.

Categories:

Contest categories will generally follow those of the 2010 Photography Contest. However, magazine staff are making final recommendations at this time. Go to: www.dgif.virginia.gov/events/photo-contest.pdf to view categories for the 2011 contest; they will be posted by March 15.

Please make sure that all activities are performed in a SAFE manner (i.e., people wear lifejackets, blaze orange, eye and hearing protection).

How to Enter:

1. The contest is open to any photographer, amateur or professional, except employees of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Contest-related usage rights must be available to *Virginia Wildlife*.

2. Each photographer may enter up to three (3) digital images per category. Note that submissions will not be returned. **PRINTS ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED.**

3. All images submitted must have been taken in Virginia within the past five years. Do not enter photographs of animals or plants that are not native to Virginia.

4. All contest entries must be listed on a piece of paper or "Delivery Memo" with your name, address, and phone number. Each entry must be individually listed in this memo stating the category in which it is entered and any details on how and where the image was taken. If possible, indicate camera type, make, model, lens, and settings used, to include ISO, shutter speed, and aperture.

5. **Digital images:** Photograph images at the highest resolution possible and send us the original JPEG, TIFF,

or RAW file. Entries may be sent on one CD or DVD. Label disk(s) with your name and daytime phone number. Embed each digital file with your contact information. Indicate the category for each picture or place it in a named folder. No digital prints are required. **NOTE: submissions will not be returned.**

Digital images that are grainy or show pixilation cannot be accepted for judging. Manipulation of exposure, cropping, and minor color correction is acceptable. Do not crop too tightly. **It is not acceptable to remove or add features to an image.**

6. We prefer that all photographs taken be of wild animals or plants in the wild but will accept photographs of animals or plants taken under "controlled conditions" or in captive situations. Shots of animals or plants in the wild are given preference over captive shots. Wild animals should not be captured for the sole purpose of photographs for this contest. If you do photograph captive or "controlled" animals, this MUST be stated in the Delivery Memo.

7. Submissions must be postmarked by 5:00 P.M. on **November 1, 2011**. Winning entries will appear in the March 2012 issue of this magazine.

8. Mail contest entries to: 2011 Annual Photography Contest, c/o Virginia Wildlife Magazine, 4010 W. Broad St., P.O. Box 11104, Richmond, VA 23230-1104. The courier address is: 2010 Annual Photography Contest c/o Virginia Wildlife Magazine, 4010 W. Broad Street, Richmond, VA 23230. It is recommended that you send your submission by certified, registered mail or by a courier who uses a tracking number to locate lost packages.

9. *Virginia Wildlife* staff members and well-known wildlife/environmental photographer Lynda Richardson will judge all entries. Contest judges will not be responsible for lost mail.

The Annual Photography Contest is offered as a way to bring greater appreciation to Virginia's wildlife and natural resources.

Entries
must be postmarked
by 5:00 P.M.
November 1, 2011.

2010 Contest Prizes

Courtesy of Richmond Camera
www.richmondcamera.com

Grand Prize Front Cover:

Induro AT 214 tripod legs and a Manfrotto Mini Ball Head with RC2 (Rapid Connect System) plate (\$227.99 value)

First Places:

Loweprro Sling Shot 302 AW Sling Bag in black (\$129.99 value)

Second Places:

Loweprro Sling Shot 202 AW Sling Bag in black (\$94.99 value)

Third Places:

Richmond Pro Lab Gallery Wrap— 11 X14 size (\$89.99 value)

Honorable Mentions:

Promaster Hurricane Blower (\$7.99 value) and Pro Master Memory Card Readers (\$29.99 value)

For Kids (6 to 12 years & 13 to 18 years)

Grand Prize Back Cover:

Induro AKB2 tripod and head kit (\$181.99 value)

First Places:

Loweprro Sling Shot 302 AW Sling Bag in black (\$129.99 value)

Second Places:

Loweprro Sling Shot 202 AW Sling Bag in black (\$94.99 value)

Third Places:

Richmond Pro Lab Gallery Wrap— 11 X14 size (\$89.99 value)

Honorable Mentions:

Promaster Hurricane Blower (\$7.99 value) and Pro Master Memory Card Readers (\$29.99 value)

Note: Comparable product may be substituted due to availability.

Just a few of this year's great entries!

©Christopher Tennant

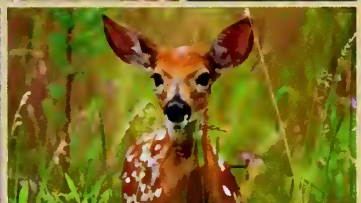
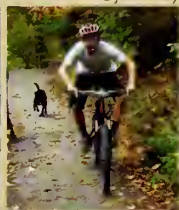
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